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California Polytechnic State University

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Two Cal Poly Faculty Members Awarded Fulbright Scholar Grants

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- Cal Poly faculty members John A. McKinstry and Elizabeth Dixon Whitaker, both in the Social Sciences Department, have been awarded 2005-2006 Fulbright Scholar grants.

Professor McKinstry and lecturer Whitaker are among about 850 individuals who will travel to some 150 countries this year to lecture or conduct research as part of the Fulbright Scholar Program. Both McKinstry and Whitaker have received two previous Fulbright awards.

McKinstry will teach at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, in Bulgaria, from February through June of next year. His classes will focus on the "Analysis of Social Life in the United States." His two earlier Fulbright awards were for work in Fukuoka, Japan, in 1982-1983 and in Tokyo for the 2000-2001 academic year.

He earned a bachelor's degree from UCLA in 1961, a master's in 1963 and a Ph.D. in 1970, both from USC. McKinstry, a resident of Pismo Beach, has taught at Cal Poly since 1968.

Whitaker will present lectures on "Linking Anthropology and History: Theory, Method and Case Studies" at the University of Bologna in Italy. Her assignment also runs February through June. This is Whitaker's third Fulbright award. In 1991-1992 she received a Fulbright Dissertation Fellowship for research in the region of Emilia-Romagna, Italy, and in 1998-1999 she served as a Fulbright Senior Scholar, also at the University of Bologna in Italy.

Whitaker, of San Luis Obispo, taught in the Department of Anthropology at American University in Washington, D.C, before coming to Cal Poly in 2004. She earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University in 1984, a master's from the University of Minnesota in 1988, and a Ph.D. from Emory University in 1995.

The Fulbright Program is an international educational exchange activity that was established in 1946 to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries. The program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

Fulbright Scholars are selected for their academic or professional achievements and for demonstrating extraordinary leadership in their fields.

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